



Adoption of the Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex

Report by the Director for the Economy

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Sussex-Air, which is an Air Quality partnership of all the Sussex local authorities, has recently published a revised version of their 'Air Quality and Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex - Jan 2020' (attached as Appendix A). This updates previous versions published in 2013 and 2019. Air quality is a material consideration in determining a planning application and, as such, the overarching aim of the guidance is to provide a consistent approach to assessing air quality impacts from development proposals.
- 1.2 It is recommended that this guidance is approved for use by Adur & Worthing Councils as a material consideration to inform decision making.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Sussex Air is a partnership of local authorities in Sussex, including both Adur District and Worthing Borough Councils. The purpose of the partnership is to:
- Help Local Authorities to meet their statutory obligations to assess and report on local air quality.
 - Provide information to the public on air quality in their area.
 - Develop and deliver projects to improve local air quality and to reduce people's exposure to poor air quality.
- 2.2 Previous Air Quality Guidance devised by Sussex-air and published in 2013, has been used by the Councils when considering applications that could have an impact on air quality. However, to provide a more robust and up-to-date assessment framework the guidance has been revised and it is hoped, will

now be adopted so that it can be used as a material consideration when future applications are considered.

- 2.3 Officers specialising in air quality from Adur & Worthing, Chichester, Mid Sussex and East Sussex County were involved in devising and amending the guidance. The West Sussex Planning Policy Officers Group were also consulted for their views as part of the latest revision. The revised guidance was then presented to air quality, planning and highways officers across Sussex and their views taken into account before the final version was published.

3.0 Proposals

- 3.1 The purpose of the new guidance is to respond to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework to provide a clear and consistent approach for assessing air quality impacts from development. More specifically the document:
- helps to inform relevant Local Plan policies
 - provides advice for developers on how to assess and mitigate the impact that new developments may have on local air quality
 - promotes optimum scheme design to help avoid unnecessary delays in the planning process.
- 3.2 Supported by a helpful checklist, the guidance explains the steps that should be taken to assess and mitigate the impact that new development may have on air quality. It then provides an emissions calculator which helps to calculate the additional transport emissions associated with development. Finally, the guidance provides examples of mitigation measures that can be used / required to minimise and/or off-set the impact on air quality.
- 3.3 This process is considered to be very positive as it provides planning officers and the respective Planning Committees with the tools by which the air-quality impacts from development can be understood and then, in appropriate circumstances, be offset / mitigated. Major developments will be required to submit an air quality impact assessment.
- 3.4 The emerging Worthing Local Plan will be revised to reflect and support this guidance. The adopted Adur Local Plan 2017 refers to the 2013 version; this will be updated when the Local Plan is next reviewed.

4.0 Legal

4.1 Air quality is a material consideration in determining a planning application. Paragraphs 110, 170E, 180 and 181 of the National Planning Policy Framework provide clear support for local guidance that would help to support the consideration and mitigation of air quality impacts arising from new development.

5.0 Financial implications

5.1 There are no additional resource implications to the Councils associated with adopting or using the guidance.

6.0 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that members of the Planning Committee forward any comments to the Executive Member for Regeneration before he is asked to approve the Air Quality and Emissions Guidance for Sussex (January 2020) to be used as a material consideration when determining any relevant planning applications.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

Appendix A - Air Quality Emissions Mitigation Guidance for Sussex (Jan 2020)

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Schedule of Other Matters

1.0 Council Priority

- 1.1 Platforms for Our Places - Stewarding our Natural Resources - seeks to reduce emissions and use innovation, planning and design to future proof what we build.

2.0 Specific Action Plans

- 2.1 Stewarding our Natural Resources: -
- Ensure delivery of environmental sustainability through planning processes, developing innovative approaches to delivering more sustainable development while balancing the imperative to build.
 - Help deliver the West Sussex Air Quality Action Plan agreed in June 2018 by promoting active travel, cleaner fuels, cleaner fleets.

3.0 Sustainability Issues

- 3.1 The guidance will help to ensure that the air quality impacts arising from major developments are mitigated / offset.

4.0 Equality Issues

- 4.1 No issues identified

5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)

- 5.1 No issues identified

6.0 Human Rights Issues

- 6.1 No issues identified.

7.0 Reputation

- 7.1 No issues identified

8.0 Consultations

8.1 The guidance published by Sussex Air has been subject to consultation with Environmental Health officers and Planning Policy officers in local authorities in West Sussex.

9.0 Risk Assessment

9.1 If this guidance is not approved as a material consideration when considering planning applications it will make it more difficult for Adur & Worthing Councils to mitigate the impact that new developments may have on local air quality.

10.0 Health & Safety Issues

10.1 No issues identified.

11.0 Procurement Strategy

11.1 No issues identified.

12.0 Partnership Working

12.1 The use of this guidance will help to achieve a consistent approach across West Sussex to the consideration and assessment of air quality impacts arising from planning proposals.